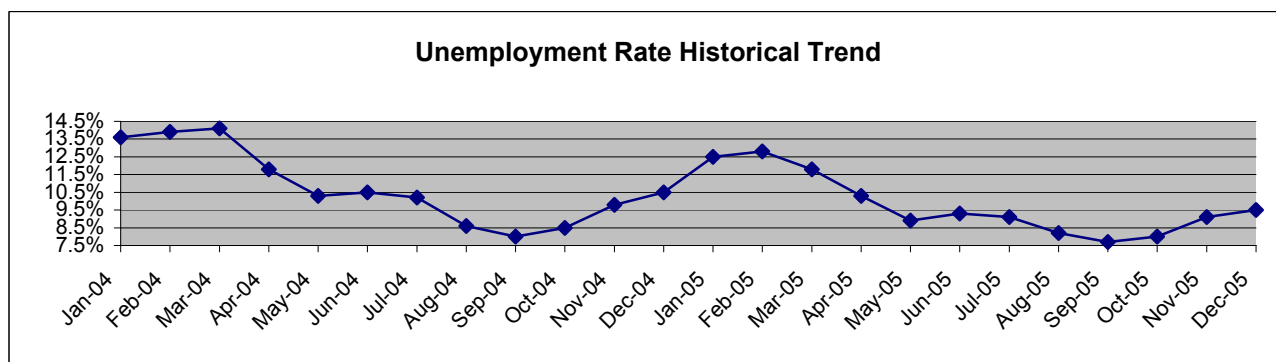


IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 MERCED METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)  
 (Merced County)

The unemployment rate in Merced County was 9.5 percent in December 2005, up from a revised 9.1 percent in November 2005, but below the year-ago estimate of 10.5 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.8 percent for California and 4.6 percent for the nation during the same period.



Industry	Nov-2005	Dec-2005	Change		Dec-2004	Dec-2005	Change
Total Jobs	69,500	68,400	(1,100)		67,500	68,400	900
Farm Jobs	10,800	9,200	(1,600)		8,900	9,200	300
Nonfarm Jobs	58,700	59,200	500		58,600	59,200	600
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	3,800	3,800	0		3,700	3,800	100
Manufacturing	11,000	10,900	(100)		11,400	10,900	(500)
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,400	11,600	200		11,500	11,600	100
Information	1,300	1,400	100		1,400	1,400	0
Financial Activities	1,800	1,800	0		1,900	1,800	(100)
Professional and Business Services	3,300	3,300	0		3,400	3,300	(100)
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,400	0		5,400	5,400	0
Leisure and Hospitality	4,600	4,600	0		4,600	4,600	0
Other Services	1,600	1,600	0		1,600	1,600	0
Government	14,500	14,800	300		13,700	14,800	1,100

Notes: Data not adjusted for seasonality

Data may not add due to rounding

Additional data are available on-line at [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Dec 04	Oct 05	Nov 05 Revised	Dec 05 Prelim.	Percent Change Month Year	
Civilian Labor Force (1)	99,600	101,700	101,000	101,100	0.1%	1.5%
Civilian Employment	89,200	93,600	91,800	91,400	-0.4%	2.5%
Civilian Unemployment	10,400	8,200	9,200	9,600	4.3%	-7.7%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.5%	8.0%	9.1%	9.5%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	5.0%	5.1%	4.8%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.1%	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%		

Total, All Industries (2)	67,500	71,100	69,500	68,400	-1.6%	1.3%
Total Farm	8,900	12,400	10,800	9,200	-14.8%	3.4%
Total Nonfarm	58,600	58,700	58,700	59,200	0.9%	1.0%
Total Private	44,900	44,800	44,200	44,400	0.5%	-1.1%
Goods Producing	15,100	15,500	14,800	14,700	-0.7%	-2.6%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	3,700	3,900	3,800	3,800	0.0%	2.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0		
Construction	3,700	3,900	3,800	3,800	0.0%	2.7%
Manufacturing	11,400	11,600	11,000	10,900	-0.9%	-4.4%
Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	9,800	10,000	9,400	9,300	-1.1%	-5.1%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	8,200	8,500	7,900	7,800	-1.3%	-4.9%
Residual-Textile Mills	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	-6.3%
Service Providing	43,500	43,200	43,900	44,500	1.4%	2.3%
Private Service Producing	29,800	29,300	29,400	29,700	1.0%	-0.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,500	11,100	11,400	11,600	1.8%	0.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	-6.7%
Retail Trade	8,100	7,800	8,100	8,300	2.5%	2.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,900	1,800	2,000	2,100	5.0%	10.5%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,700	4,500	4,600	4,700	2.2%	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0%	0.0%
Information	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,400	7.7%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0%	-5.3%
Finance and Insurance	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	0.0%	0.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	800	700	700	700	0.0%	-12.5%
Professional and Business Services	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,300	0.0%	-2.9%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,500	5,400	5,400	0.0%	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,600	4,700	4,600	4,600	0.0%	0.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,000	3,900	3,900	3,900	0.0%	-2.5%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	600	800	700	700	0.0%	16.7%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	0.0%
Government	13,700	13,900	14,500	14,800	2.1%	8.0%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State and Local Government	12,900	13,100	13,700	14,000	2.2%	8.5%
State Government	500	1,000	1,200	1,200	0.0%	140.0%
State Government Education	0	500	700	700	0.0%	
Other State Government	500	500	500	500	0.0%	0.0%
Local Government	12,400	12,100	12,500	12,800	2.4%	3.2%

Note 1: Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

Note 2: Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California State Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to: Nannette Potter-559/230-4077 or Sheila Urdesich (559/230-4142)

January 20, 2006  
Employment Development Department  
Labor Market Information Division  
(916) 262-2162

**Merced MSA**  
**Merced County**  
Industry Employment & Labor Force  
March 2004 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Dec 04	Oct 05	Nov 05 Revised	Dec 05 Prelim.	Percent Change Month      Year
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These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet  
at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>. If you need assistance, please call (916) 262-2162.

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